

[John J. Heringa]

Interview 2nd

Hodges, Carrie L.

9/11/36

c1 516 words.

SEP 19 1936

PIONEERS OF NEW MEXICO.

John J. Heringa.

John J. Heringa came to New Mexico in 1891, so that his entire business experience has been acquired in this state.

He was born in Fresland, Holland, April 22, 1872. His father being an Attorney at Law, was able to give his son every educational advantage he would take. At the age of about nineteen years he left school and came to the United States, sailing on the steamship Spaarndam, from Rotterdam to New York City, New York. Alone and witho'ut funds, he made his way westward to New Mexico, arriving at Maxwell in August, 1892.

For two years he worked for a living and in the meantime, mastered both the English and Spanish languages as well as adapting himself rapidly, to the ways and conditions of the new country to which he had come. The ranching industry attracted him immensely, and his first employment was on the Dawson ranch near Maxwell, a combined cattle and sheep ranch, where he remained for two years. [?????]

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With the experience he had gained, he became a farmer in the same community, his farm being in the irrigation district. In time he became the owner of a grain and alfalfa farm, and remained at this place until 1907, when he exchanged his holdings at Maxwell for a store of general merchandise at Passamonte.

This small retail business, under Mr. Heringa's able management, grew rapidly, and latter he was appointed postmaster of Pasamonte, the postoffice being located in the store building.

In this district, Union County, he continued his efforts 2 as a cattle and sheep rancher, and added to his land acreage as well as his herds. He engaged in farming as well as ranching, also hog and poultry raising.

He early acquired American citizenship and cast his first presidential vote in 1912, and the only official service he ever performed was that of postmaster of Pasamonte. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge at Clayton, and of the New Mexico Cattle and Horse Growers Association. He was also one of the organizers of the Life Insurance Company of the Southwest at Albuquerque, and since its consolidation with the Two Republics Life Insurance Company, has remained a stockholder.

He was a stockholder in the War Finance Corporation and during the World War acted as registrar for his district. Was also appraiser and director of the Ute Valley Loan Association.

He was one of the organizers of the Farmers and Stockmans Bank in Clayton, New Mexico, and at present is actively engaged in promoting this organization.

Mr. Heringa returned to Holland for his wife, and was married to Miss Wendolina Pesman July 18, 1899. They came to New Mexico where they have since resided. To this union

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were born four children, Edward, Elizabeth, Dia and John, all living except John who is now deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Heringa make their home in Clayton, and during his forty-four years of residence in New Mexico, is considered to be one of the most successful ranchers, and business men in Northeastern New Mexico, and Union County where most of his interests are centered.

Hodges, Carrie L.

John J. Heringa.

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